(iv) Employment Generated is 1.94 persons per functional unit.

(v) The distribution of the beneficiaries in rural/urban areas are 49.9% & 50.1% respectively.

(vi) Assets have been created in 89.7% of the cases disbursed.

(vii) About 65% of the beneficiaries have been reported to be default in the repayment of loan.

(viii) Willful default have been found to be in 16% of the default cases.

Establishment of fast Breeder Reactor in Kalpakkam

2586. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether villagers of Kalpakkam on East Coast in Chengalpathu district of Tamil Nadu are opposing upcoming of indigenously designed 500 MW fast breeder reactor because of the fear that it would affect the marine resources and spread harmful radiation causing diseases; and

(b) if so, whether Governmnet have clarified the actual position to the villagers to allay their fears?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) There are no direct instances of opposition to the proposed construction of the 500 MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor(PFBR) at Kalpakkam from the nearby villagers. During the public hearing held at Kancheepuram on 27.7.2001, District Panchayat Members [representing 13 panachayats, Kancheepuram district (earlier known as Chengalpattu district)] have expressed support for the PFBR. However, representatives of the local villages and some Non-Government Oraganisations (NGOs) did raise issues pertaining to lack of job opportunities in the Kalpakkam DAE Units, the fear of radiation affecting the health of the people, depletion of water resources and the possibility of reduction in the fish catch.

(b) During the public hearing in July, 2001 a very detailed exposition was given by the concerned experts on the Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) project indicating all the safety measures taken and the fact there would be no adverse effects due to radiation on the health of the public, or on the fish catch. That the project will not cause any extra burden on the water resources was also

explained. Even before conducting the public hearing, the Heads of Panchayats of the concerned area were specially invited to the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam and the details of the project and the benifit that will flow out of the project have been explained. Moreover as a part of the public awareness programme under emergency preparedness plan, about 1,000 people from the surrounding villages are brought inside the plant annually; they are provided orientation lectures on radiation related matters in the local language and taken around the plant to show the safety features of the reactor.

Joint Venture Atomic Power Plant

2587. SHRI K. M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up atomic power plants in joint ventures with private companies;

(b) if so, the number of such plants to be set up; and

(c) by when the work on these plants is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) The government of India are open to specific offers for participation by private firms, Indian or foreign in the nuclear power sector. However, the Government have not received any concrete proposals from the private sector so for, for setting up of nuclear power plants in the country. Such offers, when received will have to be considered on the basis of technical suitability, economic viability, regulatory requirements of our country and the conditions attached to the offers.

SAFETY OF NUCLEAR ASSETS

2588. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR :

SHRI RAJU PARMAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have seen news-item captioned "Nuclear assets absolutely safe, says Kalam" appearing in the 'Times of India,' New Delhi dated the 13th November, 2001:

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether Government's permission to make such sensitive statements was obtained by the Prinicipal Scientific Advisor and if not, the action taken in the matter?